



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09 902,064	07 10 2001	Victor C. Li	UOM 0200 PUSP	9271

7590 04 30 2003

Michael S. Brodbine
Brooks & Kushman
22nd Floor
1000 Town Center
Southfield, MI 48075-1351

EXAMINER

SZEKELY, PETER A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1714

DATE MAILED: 04 30 2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/902,064

Applicant(s)

LI ET AL.

Examiner

Peter Szekely

Art Unit

1714

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --***Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 July 2001.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 10 July 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

 a) All b) Some * c) None of:

 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3-6 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The references crossed out were not considered because they were not accompanied by either a certified English translation or an explanation of their relevance.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following: On page 5, line 21 EVOH (ethyl vinyl acetate) fibers ^{are} ~~re~~ mentioned. Ethyl vinyl acetate does not exist. Ethylene-vinyl acetate is abbreviated EVA and is hydrophobic. EVOH is ethylene-vinyl alcohol.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. There is nothing in the specification to show what superplasticizer can serve as a thickener or visa-versa.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

5. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 10, 11 and 13-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Lin et al. "On interface property characterization and performance of fiber-reinforced cementitious composites".

6. Lin et al. how applicants' composition and method in "An Example". Applicant' claims are not novel.

7. Claims 1-4 and 6-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b or e) as being anticipated by Mayahara et al. 6,106,945 or Jensen et al. 4,636,345.

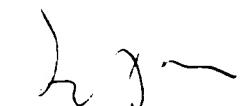
8. Mayahara et al. disclose PVA fibers with their dimensions and properties in claims 1-18, coating the fibers in column 7, lines 9-33, water in column 11, lines 7-13, cement in column 11, lines 14-19, sand in column 11, lines 25—26, superplasticizers and thickeners in column 11, line 33. See also column 15, lines 1-14 and column 12, lines 11-23. For mix with other fibers, see column 7, lines 52-58. Bundle of threads is shown in column 9, lines 44-50. For method of making, see claims 11-18, column 13, lines 35-45 and column 14, lines 21-45. Jensen et al. teach PVA fibers in column 4, lines 19-35, fiber blends in column 4, lines 36-38, cement in column 4, lines 39-47, sand in column 4, lines 58-67, fiber concentration in column 4, lines 67-68. Superplasticizers mixed with thickeners are listed in column 13-63. For methods of preparation see the Examples and columns 7-11. For concentrations, see column 6, lines 7-16.

Applicants' claims are not novel.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter Szekely whose telephone number is (703) 308-2460. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 a.m-5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vasu Jagannathan can be reached on (703) 306-2777. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.



Peter Szekely
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1714

P.S.
April 28, 2003